

**Jim and Lynn Kouf  
10061 Riverside Drive, PMB 1024  
Toluca Lake, CA 91602  
Double K Ranch  
PO Box 365, Darby MT 59829**

February 14, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: HB 691/the "MONTANA FILM ARTS PILOT PROGRAM"

Dear Chairman Jore:

We are writing on behalf Peter Rosten and the MAPS program.  
We have known and worked with Peter for 20 years and are huge supporters  
of the MAPS program.

As writers, producers and directors (for 30 years) in Hollywood, as well as  
landowners and cattle ranchers (for 22 years) in Montana, we can definitely  
speak for the benefit of this program going statewide. Not only for the future  
of the kids in a rural setting, but for the possible careers of young people in a  
town that welcomes a new and talented work force every year!

It is our hope that you will give due consideration to this terrific bill.  
Thank you for your time.

Kindest regards,

Lynn Kouf  
Producer  
"Stakeout"  
"Disorganized Crime"  
"Gang Related"

Jim Kouf  
Writer/Producer/Director  
Numerous Disney/Touchtone Films  
"National Treasure"  
"Disorganized Crime"/Stakeout/Gang  
Related  
Executive Producer: "Ghost Whisperer"/  
CBS-Touchstone

February 14, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Representative Jore,

It has come to my attention that you have a bill in legislation in front of you concerning the expansion of the MAPS (Media Arts in the Public Schools) program. I would like to inform you of my experience in the MAPS program. When the classes began in 2004 I was a junior at Corvallis High School. I was interested in the idea of making movies but I had no clue as to how to accomplish such a feat. Peter Rosten, the instructor and creator of MAPS, opened up a world to me where I would have otherwise been lost. We were taught the fundamentals such as the three act structure of a script but the capacity to create was and is endless.

In that year I learned how to write a script, make a production schedule, contact people for support, locations, and props. Then once we had everything settled on paper we went out and filmed our movie. It was the most difficult and wonderful experience I can recall. We were on set with our actors and I watched what myself and other students in the class had written, come to life. I watched the actors breathe life into my characters. It was my most fulfilling moment until the local PharaohPlex Theater allowed us a free showing of the movie we made, 'Soul Sight.' When I watched to crowd applaud the movie we all worked so hard on I realized I would do anything to be able to do this again.

It was that year in Mr. Rosten's class I decided what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Previously, I wasn't sure what I wanted to be. I had no particular aspirations or direction. I wasn't interested in competitive sports nor was I active in the musical aspect such as band or chorus. MAPS became my niche. Media Arts has become apart of my life, I used to be entertained by movies but now I decipher them. I read them like I read a book. I have continued on to the University of Montana and I am currently enrolled to major in Media Arts. The U of M added Media Arts as a major in the Autumn Semester of 2006. This program will continue to grow and allow students of the Montana school system to continue their studies in their own home state.

Expanding the MAPS program will allow other students the opportunity to discover what is inside them. The outcome of expanding is limitless and should be given the opportunity to reach out to the children of Montana, as it reached out to me.

Sincerely,

Danielle Corona

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
P.O. Box 200400

Helena, MT. 59620 -0400

Dear Representative Jore,

I am writing this letter in support of House Bill 691, the "Montana film arts pilot program.

This bill will support the Media Arts In Public Schools Program. For the last three years, this program has been funded privately by the Florence Prever Rosten Foundation and is currently in the Corvallis and Darby school systems. The work that the students do in this program is nothing short of excellence and the program teaches not only the creative side of the film industry but the business side as well. The program should expand to a statewide audience and give our kids one more opportunity to be enthusiastic about learning.

To learn more about this program I urge you to visit the website, [www.mediarts.org](http://www.mediarts.org).

Mr. Jore I believe it is important to our children and to our states economy to have trained people in an effort to help attract films, commercials and television to the state of Montana. Having a work force would help attract the film industry into the state.

If I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me directly. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Pete Deneault

News Director

Clear Channel Radio

3250 South Reserve St. STE. 200

Missoula, MT. 59801

(406) 523 - 9809

Steve Short  
Manager, Network Operations  
GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals  
553 Old Corvallis Rd  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Re: HB 691/the "Montana film arts pilot program"

Dear Mr. Chairman,

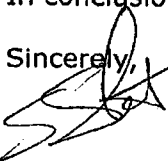
It has come to my attention that that a bill (HB 691) to fund the MAPS expansion to additional schools around the state is currently being presented to the Montana State Legislature. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my opinion and support of this important program and how it affects the students at Corvallis High school.

Mr. Peter Rosten came to the Corvallis School District while I was a trustee on the school board and presented what I thought was a very contemporary and exciting program. Our concern, of course, was lack of both funding and Mr. Rosten's teaching credentials. Mr. Rosten solved the funding problem by setting up the Florence Prever Rosten Foundation and aggressively campaigning for funds, and the superintendent arranged for mentoring by a staff member to satisfy the teaching credentials dilemma. Mr. Rosten then went the extra yard by getting his own teaching credentials, a monumental feat by its own right. Mr. Rosten's passion for the program has been clearly demonstrated by his actions of the last 3 years.

In addition to his efforts for the program, Mr. Rosten has also demonstrated his passion for the students, and I can personally testify to this by briefly describing his influence on my own 15-year old child. My son was a likely candidate for becoming an Increment in the dreaded drop-out statistic that each district fears against the No Child Left Behind mandate. Since he has been involved in MAPS, he now actually enjoys going to school. Mr. Rosten's gift for being able to connect with the students and put them into a rewarding and educational environment has values that far outweigh any funding concerns.

In conclusion I am asking you to share my support for this wonderful program.

Sincerely,



Steve Short

BLOOM, BLOOM & BLOOM  
GARDENS FOR THE SOUL  
JILL GOODSSELL, DESIGNER

February 15, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: HB 691 – MAPS Funding Bill

Sir:

I first became aware of the MAPS program by means of the outstanding publicity it has received. Although I am a resident of Washington State, I nevertheless recognize a program of merit and thus, have become an ardent fan of the opportunities it nurtures in high school students. Teaching students skills that can be applied in the real world is their goal – and it's a goal that is working. The students are engaged and passionate about their projects which are truly first-class, professional and thought provoking.

Please give your full support to the proposed legislation. The MAPS program is a genuine success story that should be afforded to other schools in Montana as it speaks to the true concept of excellence in education. There is tremendous up-side to this funding proposal, please cast a decision in its favor. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Jill Goodsell

Rep. Jore, I ask your support for this bill allowing for the expansion of the MAPS program to other schools in the state.

The program, started with people's personal funds and time as well as some private foundation support, desperately needs this infusion of state funding to bring this program to more students across our state. It's a wonderful program which has already proven its value to students so the state support at this point is investing in a winner not starting some unproven project.

As the former president of Qwest in Montana, our foundation already joined this worthwhile effort because of the demonstrated results it had achieved. Other foundations have joined the Qwest Foundation to expand MAPS to the larger communities in Montana now it needs to be offered to students in the smaller schools so that they too may benefit from this creative work study/learn by doing/educational project. We are very fortunate to have the resources that have brought this to the state to-date and must not jeopardize its viability by not supporting and expanding it with our state dollars.

MAPS offers a unique opportunity for students to learn a variety of job skills and apply them in our local communities' economy.

Please support HB 691!

February 15, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Jore:

It is my distinct honor to write this correspondence to you in support of MAPS (Media Arts in the Public Schools). You may wonder why a banker would be writing on this subject. I am the director of marketing for Farmers State Bank and as such I handle all of our community involvement and financial support for programs. Farmers State Bank donated over \$168,000 to organizations and causes in our market area in 2006. We're proud of what we do, but we also know that even that amount is just a drop in the bucket for what is needed.

We have chosen to support MAPS and have been extremely impressed with the output of this very unique program. Knowing that there is not sufficient funding to expand the reach and impact of this program we are very excited about the prospect of state funding. House Bill 691 could give more young people the opportunity to see the possibilities that have previously been unexplored.

I hope you too come to believe in this program and find it worthy of state funding support. Should you have questions you would like to ask of me, please feel free to contact me at either of the numbers shown below. Thank you again for your work in behalf of our youth.

Sincerely,

Owen W. Robbins  
Director of Marketing  
Office: 406.642.2224  
Cell: 406.207.0658

HELEN POLLAK  
4201 Beck Avenue  
Studio City, CA 91604

February 15, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: HB 691/the "Montana Film Arts Pilot Program"

Dear Chairman Jore:

I am writing this letter on behalf of MAPS, Media Arts in the Public School which is a program that I have become very familiar with through it's founder and director, Peter Rosten.

As a film producer/production manager in Hollywood, I can speak to the need to have qualified and knowledgable young people coming into the industry. As a fairly recent landowner in Darby, Montana, I can speak to the need to present new and innovative opportunities to the student in Montana who might otherwise never get them. And lastly, as a parent, I can only continue to encourage providing our children with learning experiences that are somewhat outside of their immediate world.

Please give this terrific bill the full consideration that our children deserve from us.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Helen Pollak  
Line Producer  
"The Holiday" "Something's Gotta Give"  
"What Women Want", "The Doors"  
The Bodyguard, "Fight Club"



February 15, 2007

Dear Representative Jore:

The Media Arts in Public Schools (MAPS) program is a truly global model for educating Montana's youth. In short, MAPS is exciting and one of the true leaders in both education and the entertainment business today. Moreover, I firmly believe that MAPS has only just begun, and that the sky is the limit to what the program can achieve in the next decade. It is a keystone for building a stronger, new economic sector for Montana, while also providing exciting and challenging opportunities to our children.

Personally and professionally, I find MAPS approach to education very exciting. It is a rare, special and invaluable opportunity for students in Montana's public schools to be able to benefit from the hands on experience provided through this program. I am confident that these experiences will help each and every one of them succeed.

Importantly, since its inception MAPS has raised awareness so that students are now aggressively and enthusiastically pursuing careers in the business of entertainment. Furthermore, I fully anticipate that we will see some of the MAPS students pursue additional education through programs offered at Montana universities.

Currently, I look forward to the MAPS program contributing its knowledge of the entertainment business to the Entertainment Management program at the University of Montana. The fact that MAPS contributes to the education of Montana's youth at both the public school and college levels is most admirable, and a testament to its value to Montana.

MAPS gives the State a higher profile in an industry that may be out of reach, otherwise. There is a tremendous opportunity to be seized to encourage and expand the relationship between the entertainment industry and Montana. Currently, MAPS provides an additional layer of education to build core knowledge of this industry. Students enrolled in the MPAS program come away with not only a structural outlook on the entertainment industry, but with cultural ideas as well.

In closing, MAPS helps to break down the small town-large metropolis barrier and makes it easily accessible to those who want to learn about the entertainment industry. Being raised in Montana should not effect the range of opportunities our students receive.

Sincerely;

Scott Douglas, Director  
The Entertainment Management Program  
The School of Business Administration  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812  
406-243-5695



Thursday February 15th, 2007

To whom it may concern,

My name is Michelle Wolfe and I am the Program and Music Director of 95-1 FM KMMS "The Moose" in Bozeman, Montana. I write this letter in support of HB #691.

Programs like Media Arts in the Public Schools are crucial elements in shaping the future of many Montana kids and it takes money to make them happen. There is nothing more beneficial to a young person than to be inspired by their educational opportunities and to be shown different professional avenues.

As a graduate of Bozeman Senior High School myself and having worked closely with MAPS and BSHS in the past year, I can attest to the incredible impact that their programs have on young people.

Igniting passion for the Media Arts at an early age is something that can be accomplished through the continued hard work of MAPS and the funding of HB #691.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Wolfe  
Program/Music Director  
KMMS-FM "The Moose" 95-1  
Bozeman, MT  
[michellewolfe@clearchannel.com](mailto:michellewolfe@clearchannel.com)  
125 West Mendenhall  
Bozeman, MT 59715

15 February 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Sir:

I write to you in enthusiastic support for HB 691 entitled The "Montana film arts pilot program." I have followed to progress of the Media Arts in the Public Schools (MAPS) project since its inception and have had the pleasure of reviewing some of the short films and public service announcements created by Peter Rosten's students and was impressed with their professional appearance and over all high quality. At the time I was serving as the Associate Dean at Montana State University - Great Falls Mr. Rosten offered a workshop in film making as a part of our summer programs that was very well received and further demonstrated the quality of his work on behalf of the state.

HB 691 would allow MAPS to grow from a pilot program to a curricular option through out the state where it will provide Montana students with the skills to communicate in the dominant media of our time and to benefit themselves and the State by laying the foundation for a locally based workforce capable of supporting American and international film production companies.

Bringing film production to Montana benefits the State in two important ways; it publicizes Montana by showing audiences world-wide the beauty and diversity of the State and by brining in millions of dollars in revenue currently spent in Canada and Eastern Europe. I lived in Bulgaria for nine years and personally saw the benefits the nation accrued as international film companies discovered the well trained personnel left behind after the fall of communism. Bulgaria has provided personnel for everything from low budget science fiction films to major Hollywood productions resulting in revenues in the hundreds of millions.

Montana stands to benefit in the same way if the legislative committee that you chair has the foresight to see the possibilities in HB 691. The state is fortunate to have such a talented person as Peter Rosten working for its advancement. He has created a program that is both a positive experience for Montana high school students and of great economic potential for the entire State community. Such a pairing is unusual and should be encouraged.

I urge you to pass HB 691.

Respectfully

Vernon L. Pedersen

1190 Piedra Morada  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

February 15, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Rick Jore:

I'm writing to voice my support for MAPS and bill HB 691. MAPS addresses an important criticism that is often leveled against my industry i.e., that according to television and movies, there are only two cities in America: Los Angeles and New York. While I sympathize with this critique, the simple fact is that going outside of Los Angeles and New York is often prohibitively expensive due to the number of crew members who need to be flown in.

This creates an obvious Catch-22. If there are no trained crews in Montana, productions won't go there, but if no one with the requisite training goes to Montana, there's no opportunity for local crews to learn. This is where MAPS comes in. By teaching High School students about the various technologies that film and television productions utilize, you not only enrich their lives, but create new economic opportunities for the state.

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts on this topic.

Regards,  
David Greenwalt

Thursday, February 15, 2007

House Education Committee  
Rick Jore, Chairman  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Stock Farm Club happily endorses the expansion of Peter Rosten's MAPS Program to additional schools around the state.

Having been associated with the MAPS Program and Mr. Rosten for a number of years now, I am a strong advocate of media arts education within the school systems. The concept gives students a starting point from which to grow and develop their expressive, creative minds. This program encourages entrepreneurship that will carry on throughout the student's high school and into their professional career.

I have no doubt that this program will have a positive impact on the future of Montana communities. Both the Stock Farm Club and the Greater Ravalli Foundation have supported this program in the past and will continue to do so in the future. Please consider our support for the expansion of the MAPS Program. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matt Guzik  
General Manager, CCM  
Stock Farm Club

COLUMB  
IN THE  
SCHOOL OF INTERN

Honorable Rick Jore  
Chairman  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Jore:

I write to express my strong support for  
arts pilot program. I know the MAPS  
contributions to its excellent efforts to  
school students. As a former state and

# CB CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC

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COREY BUSCH  
PRINCIPAL  
CB.CONSULTING@GMAIL.COM

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0440

February 14, 2007

Re: HB 691, Montana Film Arts Program

Dear Chairman Jore:

I'm writing you in support of HB 691.

I've known the President of MAPS, Peter Rosten, for over twenty years both as a film producer and friend.

When Peter began MAPS in 2004 he asked for my support, which I gave gladly, and continue to do so.

From 1979 through 1992 I served as executive vice president of the San Francisco Giants baseball team and was extremely aware of our influence on the youth of our community as well as our responsibility to them. But not every young person can be a baseball player and one thing that has impressed me about the evolution of the program and potential impact on other Montana students is its effectiveness with 'at-risk' youth.

If HB 691 is passed, I believe a wide variety of Montana Public School students will benefit greatly and become better professionals and people.

As a member of the Board of Directors of MAPS, I hope we can count on your active support of HB 691 and we look forward to its passage.

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14 BAYWOOD TERRACE  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94901  
TEL - 415.458.8667

## CB CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC

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Sincerely,

Corey Busch



Representative Rick Jore  
Chairman of the Education Committee  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT

Feb. 15, 2007

Dear Rep. Jore,

Please lend your support to House Bill 691, which would expand the Media Arts in Public Schools (MAPS) program to other schools throughout Montana.

As a reporter and editor, I've been covering MAPS since its inception, and have watched as students gain skills, confidence and momentum.

As a parent and Mission Valley resident, I've been impressed with the program's tangible accomplishments – especially in a rural school district like our own. Corvallis students are gaining valuable real-life experience in teamwork and creative thinking, along with actual, marketable production skills and business acumen. They have clients, who help support the program by hiring students to create commercials and other marketing tools.

We want our students to learn real-world skills and we want programs in the schools that produce results. MAPS has accomplished both of those things in Corvallis, and I'm confident could do the same things for students throughout the state. That's the kind of innovation and educational experience that deserves taxpayer support.

Sincerely,

Kristi Niemeyer  
17008 Repass Tr.  
St. Ignatius, MT 59865  
745-2821



## **Darby Public Schools**

District Number 9 • 209 School Drive • Darby, Montana 59829

Superintendent/Business Manager (406) 821-3841

High School 821-3252 • Elementary 821-3643

Maintenance 821-3974 • Fax 821-4977 • Website: [www.darby.k12.mt.us](http://www.darby.k12.mt.us)

15 February, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: HB 691/the "Montana film arts pilot program"

Dear Mr. Jore,

I am writing on behalf of Darby Schools, where I am the program coordinator for the X-TREME Team after school project. With grant funding, we are offering a MAPS (Media Arts in Public Schools) program for high school students two nights per week during the 2006/07 school year. The students involved in the program are producing an anti-tobacco video for use in our school and community, along with learning valuable skills that would otherwise be unavailable in a rural setting such as Darby.

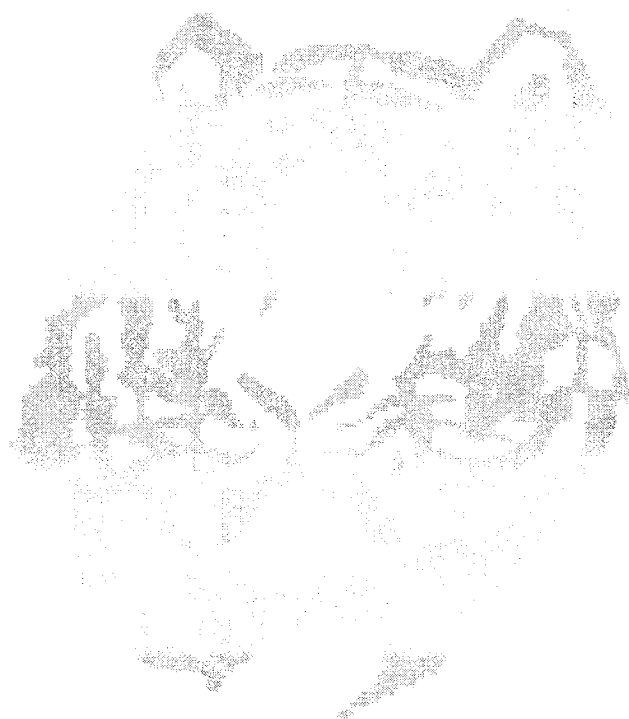
I understand that HB 691/the "Montana film arts pilot program" will be coming up for review in the legislature. I *strongly urge you* and others on the Education Committee to do all that you can to encourage the passing of this bill, which will fund the expansion of MAPS to other schools around the state. This program offers students an in depth introduction to an industry that can have a direct economic impact on the state of Montana by providing a knowledgeable workforce within state boundaries.

In light of shrinking funding for education, it is imperative that we do all that we can to ensure that our children are receiving the best possible opportunities to be successful in an increasingly competitive world. The MAPS program offers opportunities and hands on activities that go beyond the every day classroom experience which is vital for keeping students engaged and enthusiastic about learning. It is this type of 'classroom without walls' that will serve our students most in their continuing search for success as adults.

Darby Schools would very much like to be able to offer the MAPS program during regular school hours in the coming years, and with help from the legislature, this could be a reality. Thank you for considering this important addition to the educational future of all Montanans.

Sincerely,

Deborah Rogala, Program Coordinator, Darby's X-TREME Team After School Program





## State of New Mexico

### *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson, Governor**

February 15, 2007

Hon. Rick Jore, Chairman  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Jore:

I am writing in support of House Bill 691, the "Montana Film Arts Pilot Program" currently before your committee.

As you may know, New Mexico has become a leader in promoting film production through offering a comprehensive production incentive package, and in developing aggressive training programs to provide skilled "below the line" production crew and "above the line" talent including directors, cinematographers, writers, editors, etc.

One of the keys to our success in this area has been to introduce our youth to media arts and production training in the primary school system. We have found these programs to be among the most popular and successful with students, with faculty, and with parents. Similarly at the college and university level our film-related degree programs continue to exceed enrollment expectations. Given the popularity of these programs it can be inferred that at least some students exposed to these programs at the primary level are inspired to continue their education at the college level directly because of that exposure, a further and very important benefit.

I am aware of at least one such primary level program that currently exists in Montana, the Media Arts in Public Schools (MAPS) program. This program has achieved notable success resulting in at least one nationally-syndicated article which brought it to our attention. Programs such as MAPS provide ready models which can be expanded throughout the state.

I would respectfully encourage favorable consideration of HB691 in your committee. It has been our experience here in New Mexico that these are dollars well invested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EWITT', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric Witt  
Director, Legislative/Political Affairs &  
Media Arts and Entertainment Development

February 17, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Re: HB 691/the "Montana film arts pilot program"

**Dear Chairman Jore,**

I am writing to encourage your support for HB 691, a bill which would provide funding for the Montana Film Arts Pilot Program.

Missoula Community Access Television has been providing limited educational support to all four Missoula area high schools for specific training in television arts and science. I have seen how the lives of students have been transformed through access to technical media training. Our program has been in operation for ten years.

Here are some of the benefits I have seen from this type of program:

*Students learn to speak their minds through moving pictures.*  
Our kids have been motivated to learn about the communication process, to learn about our town's government and how democracy works. They have stopped being just consumers of media and became *producers* of media with something responsible to say. This have been a dramatic and beneficial transition for couch potato to involved young citizen.

*Students learn a job skill that is rewarding, and potentially well-paying!*

A number of our media students have gone on to intern with the local broadcast television news departments here in town. The skills they learned in their internships helped them get into broadcasting studies at the University of Montana and later into high paying jobs. I been around the program for ten years and I have seen it happen.

Everyone wants high paying film companies to come Montana, why would they come without a trained workforce?  
Montana has the amazing scenery, the historic character to fill a hundred function in the media market, from commercials to epic films about the West. If we don't train our kids to work these jobs -the jobs won't come to Montana -it's too expensive to import the entire crew for a film shoot. Why shouldn't our Montana kids have a chance and bringing a strong film industry to life in this state? We have to start somewhere, and I believe HB691 is a place to start.

These programs have results, they foster good citizens and citizens with good marketable skills. Please support the bill.

Thank you,

Joel Baird  
General Manager  
Missoula Community  
Access Television  
500 N Higgins  
suite 105  
Missoula, MT 59802  
406-542-6228  
406-721-6014 fax  
[jbaird@mcats.org](mailto:jbaird@mcats.org)  
on the web: [www.mcats.org](http://www.mcats.org)

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

February 15, 2007

Re: HB 691/the "Montana Film Arts Pilot Program"

Dear Chairman Jore:

I am writing in strong support of the programs of Media Arts in the Public Schools (MAPS). The Steele-Reese Foundation has been a supporter of MAPS since the summer of 2006, when we made a \$40,000 grant to the organization to assist with equipment purchases, production costs, and salary support for its high school production programs. The foundation's Western Program Director and I spent an afternoon with Peter Rosten and a group of his students in Darby, and were most impressed both by the quality of the work they had produced and in the enthusiasm present in their voices and faces when they spoke of what a difference MAPS has made to their schools, their educations, and their lives.

MAPS provides Montana students with valuable media skills and, importantly, helps them identify careers that might otherwise have been unavailable to them. They gain practical experience while in high school that can and does lead to further educational and employment opportunities. Several of the students with whom we spoke in Darby had already demonstrated a commitment to working in the film arts beyond high school, and we believe that the continuation and expansion of film programs in Montana's schools will benefit current and future generations of Montana students.

Programs like MAPS can and will be effective across Montana, and we look forward to continuing to work with Peter Rosten and his students in the years to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the address in Brooklyn, New York, at the head of this letter, or by email at [charles@steele-reese.org](mailto:charles@steele-reese.org), if I can provide any additional information.

Respectfully,

Charles U. Buice  
Trustee

cc: William T. Buice, III  
Jeanne E. Wolverton  
Peter Rosten



February 15, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Re: HB 691, Montana film arts pilot program

Dear Representative Jore,

I urge you to support HB691, which seeks to create a Montana film arts pilot program. It will provide a funding mechanism for an innovative educational program offering young students the technical skills, business acumen, and real world experience needed for a career in a growing industry in our state.

Here at The University of Montana, our work involves not only training college students, but also translating our biomedical science research in a way that best serves communities and schools throughout Montana. This communication process requires seeking out media approaches that expand our science learning programs beyond the college campus for dissemination to young students and the public at large. Media Arts in the Public Schools has established itself as a great school-to-work model, and we look forward to collaborating with an expanded film arts program that can help us carry out our health science outreach and education goals.

I urge your support of HB691 as an important educational initiative for workforce development in the State of Montana.

Respectfully,

Diana Vanek, Outreach Coordinator  
Center for Environmental Health Science  
College of Health Professional and Biomedical Sciences  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812

February 15, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Re: HB 691, Montana film arts pilot program

Dear Representative Jore,

I urge you to support HB691, which seeks to create a Montana film arts pilot program. It will provide a funding mechanism for an innovative educational program offering young students the technical skills, business acumen, and real world experience needed for a career in a growing industry in our state.

Here at The University of Montana, our work involves not only training college students, but also translating our biomedical science research in a way that best serves communities and schools throughout Montana. This communication process requires seeking out media approaches that expand our science learning programs beyond the college campus for dissemination to young students and the public at large. Media Arts in the Public Schools has established itself as a great school-to-work model, and we look forward to collaborating with an expanded film arts program that can help us carry out our health science outreach and education goals.

I urge your support of HB691 as an important educational initiative for workforce development in the State of Montana.

Respectfully,

Diana Vanek, Outreach Coordinator  
Center for Environmental Health Science  
College of Health Professional and Biomedical Sciences  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812

February 15, 2007

Honorable Rick Jore, Chairman  
House Education Committee  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Jore,

This letter is in support of House Bill 691, the Montana Film Arts Pilot Program. I know that you have received several letters describing the Media Arts in the Public Schools program, which would benefit from the passing of this bill. Having seen at first hand the positive effects this program has had on the high school students in Corvallis and then Darby, I know that any and all of our Montana high schools would do well to make MAPS available to their students. Not only does MAPS encourage and promote students' creativity, it teaches them how to market their newly developed skills – something our Montana school system certainly supports.

Mr. Peter Rosten has proven himself capable of creating this program, nurturing it, teaching it well, and promoting it among students, teachers, administrative staff, and the public at large. I am sure that he could carry it successfully to all of our Montana high schools, and I urge the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Jeanne E Wolverton  
Western Program Director

Cc: Charles U. Buice, Trustee  
William T. Buice III, Trustee  
Peter Rosten



February 16, 2007

Chairman Rick Jore  
House Education Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Re: HB 691

Dear Chairman Jore,

The Rural School and Community Trust enthusiastically supports MAPS and its efforts to generate some financial support from the state of Montana.

Research and common sense have come to the same conclusion about high school improvement. Engagement of students is critical to keeping them in school and making progress. Learning activities like MAPS that engage students in real world projects are exactly what is needed.

MAPS also enables students to develop job skills and a portfolio of good examples to use in applying for work or college. And it provides businesses and organizations with high quality communication products. I loved the gingerbread man campaign for financial aid.

MAPS is unique. This is why we have written about and shared the idea with rural schools across the country. Investment that allows it to expand in Montana would be terrific.

Rachel Tompkins  
President  
Rural School and Community Trust

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